

SHARP Monthly Reader

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Q&A

Q: Under the new recordkeeping requirements what is our requirement, as a SHARP company, to report an amputation or overnight hospitalization?

A: You are still required to report it to OSHA, but let them know you are a SHARP Company. We will be notified to address the issue unless it is a fatality or catastrophe. In the case of a fatality or catastrophe, OSHA will investigate.

New SHARP Monthly Reader



Greetings, SHARP Companies! It is my pleasure to welcome you to the unveiling of the first edition of the SHARP Monthly Reader. The intent of this newsletter is to provide you with the latest “happenings” within OSHA and the newest trends and innovations within the Division of Industrial Safety and Health (“D-ISH”). We will also keep you informed of any issues or useful information to assist you in enhancing your Safety and Health program. As you probably know, we have endured many staffing changes within the Division of ISH. To that note, each monthly edition will introduce our



staff, both new and “seasoned”. Additionally, If you have any topics or ideas that would be useful to you or other SHARP facilities, please feel free to send them to us. Each month we will include a Q&A section of questions that employers have asked that may be helpful to other facilities. Your questions are always welcome.

I certainly hope that you and your employees enjoy *The Reader* and learn new and improved ideas to enhance your safety culture.

Confined Spaces – Dangers Within

On October 2, 2007, five people were killed and three others injured when a fire erupted 1,000 feet underground in a tunnel at Xcel Energy Company's hydroelectric

power plant in Georgetown, Colorado, located approximately 45 miles west of Denver. This CSB safety video explains how the accident occurred.

[No Escape: Dangers of Confined Spaces](#)

"The Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) is an exceptional program. We are pleased to note that Kansas continues to have the greatest number of SHARP sites in the nation and the highest percentage of SHARP sites per workplace establishment in states under federal OSHA jurisdiction."

- **Secretary
Lana
Gordon**



Q&A

Q: How does OSHA define "Amputation"?

A: An amputation is the traumatic loss of all or part of a limb or other external body part. This would include fingertip amputations with or without bone loss; medical amputations resulting from irreparable damage; and amputation of body parts that have since been reattached.

Dangerously Close: Explosion in West,

7:51 pm central daylight time (CDT), on April 17, 2013, a fire and explosion occurred at the West Fertilizer Company (WFC), a fertilizer blending, retail, and distribution facility in West, Texas. Which had a stockpile of between 40 and 60 tons (80,000 to 120,000 pounds) fertilizer grade ammonium nitrate (FGAN), not counting additional FGAN still on

railcar. The violent detonation fatally injured 12 emergency responders and three members of the public. Local hospitals treated more than 260 injured victims, many of whom required hospital admission. The blast completely destroyed the WFC facility and caused widespread damage to more than 150 offsite buildings. Following the explosion, WFC filed for

bankruptcy.

[Explosion in West, Texas](#)

For the full report visit [CSB website](#).

Whistleblower Protection

A truck driver fired for refusing to drive a company vehicle pulled from service by the Iowa Department of Transportation is owed \$55,000 in back wages, damages and compensation from his employer. An OSHA investigation found that Nebraska-based Jake Rieger Farms LLC violated the [whistleblower provisions](#) of the [Surface](#)

[Transportation Assistance Act of 1982](#)

"His employer fired him on the spot and left him to find his way home to Nebraska," said Marcia Drumm, OSHA's regional administrator in Kansas City. OSHA ordered Jake Rieger Farms to pay the driver \$25,000 in punitive damages and \$30,000 in compensatory damages. For more information, see

the [news release](#).

Recordkeeping

OSHA reminds employers of their obligation to post a copy of [OSHA's Form 300A](#), which summarizes job-related injuries and illnesses logged during 2015. The summary must be displayed in a common area where notices to employees are usually

posted each year between Feb. 1 and April 30. Businesses with 10 or fewer employees and those in certain low-hazard industries are exempt from OSHA recordkeeping and posting requirements. As of Jan. 1, 2015, certain previously

exempt industries are now covered. Lists of both [exempt](#) and [newly covered](#) industries are available on OSHA's website. Visit OSHA's [Recordkeeping Rule webpage](#) for more information on recordkeeping requirements

Severe Weather Awareness – It’s that time

When disaster strikes, it pays to be prepared. Having a disaster kit on hand will save you time and could save your life. A disaster kit should be in your designated shelter and it would also be helpful to have a smaller version in a backpack or other container that is easily carried if you need to evacuate your home. Since this week has been designated Severe

Weather Awareness Week in Kansas, this is an ideal time to assemble a kit or review the contents of last year’s kit to keep it up-to-date with your family’s needs.

For more information on severe weather go to <http://www.weather.gov/ea/x/SevereWeatherAware2016>

Over 10,000 Severe Worker Injuries Reported

Since Jan. 1, 2015, employers have been required to report any severe work-related injury – defined as a hospitalization, amputation or loss of an eye – within 24 hours. The requirement that an employer report a workplace fatality within eight hours remains in force. In the first year of the new requirement, employers notified OSHA

of more than 10,000 severe work-related injuries, creating the opportunity for the agency to work with employers to eliminate hazards and protect other workers.

“[Year One of OSHA’s Severe Injury Reporting Program: An Impact Evaluation](#)” found that in the first full year of the program, employers reported 10,388 severe

injuries, including 7,636 hospitalizations and 2,644 amputations. In a majority of those cases, OSHA responded by working with the employer to identify and eliminate hazards, rather than conducting a worksite inspection.

Whole Story:

[EHS Today](#)

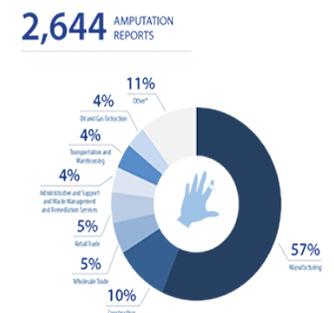
Preventing Workplace Violence in Healthcare

Workers in hospitals, nursing homes, and other healthcare settings face significant risks of workplace violence. Many factors contribute to this risk, including working directly with people who have a history of violence or who may be delirious or under the influence of drugs. From

2002 to 2013, the rate of serious workplace violence incidents (those requiring days off for an injured worker to recuperate) was more than four times greater in healthcare than in private industry on average. In fact, healthcare accounts for nearly as many serious

violent injuries as all other industries combined. Many more assaults or threats go unreported. Workplace violence comes at a high cost; however, it can be prevented. OSHA has compiled a suite of resources to help you build and implement a program.

Figure One: Reports filed by industry sector



*Other industry sectors include: Accommodation and Food Services; Other Services (except Public Administration); Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Public Administration; Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation; Information; Utilities; Real Estate and Rental and Leasing; Educational Services; Finance and Insurance; and Management of Companies and Enterprises.

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SHARP Coordinator

"Safety is not an object nor something you can measure! It's culture, a value."



Information provided by
OSHA QuickTakes, CSB,
and Weather.gov.

Meet the Staff of KDOL-ISH

This month's issue we would like to introduce two KDOL-ISH employees, Shelly Briley, SHARP Coordinator, Industrial Hygienist, and Aaron Weaver, Safety Consultant, Monthly Reader Editor.

Started with KDOL-ISH in June 2014, became SHARP Coordinator in October 2015. Prior to that, worked as EHS Manager for a manufacturing company in Hays.



Graduated from PSU 2013 with a major in Environmental and Safety Management. Worked for URS on DTE Energy – Bluestone Gathering and has been with KDOL-ISH since October 6th, 2014.



Upcoming Events

67th Annual Safety and Health Conference - at the Double Tree by Hilton Wichita Airport, in Wichita, KS October 18 - 21, 2016.

Register:

<http://www.dol.ks.gov/Safety/events.aspx>

To be put on the mailing list, contact: Dena Ackors – (785)296-4386 ext. 2305 or email: dena.ackors@dol.ks.gov

SAFECONEXPO – The Safety & Health Council of Western Missouri and Kansas – Tan-Tar-A Resort, Lake of the Ozarks, MO – May 18-20, 2016.

Register:

www.shcmoks.com

Questions? Call (816) 842-5223

Heart of America Chapter annual professional development conference for members and friends. April 14 – 15. Info at: <http://kc.asse.org/events/?ee=10>

Work Comp date: Sept 27 – 28. Info at: <https://www.dol.ks.gov/WorkComp/seminar.aspx>

Pittsburg State University is offering OSHA #7510 – Intro to OSHA for Small Business and OSHA #7845 – OSHA Recording Keeping Rule on August 19, 2016.

Contact Patricia to register: (785) 238-8550

Cost \$125 for each with a FREE Networking Lunch.